

# Chinese Physics C

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## CONTENTS

### PARTICLES AND FIELDS

- 023001 **Performance and calibration of quark/gluon-jet taggers using  $140 \text{ fb}^{-1}$  of  $pp$  collisions at  $\sqrt{s} = 13 \text{ TeV}$  with the ATLAS detector**  
G. Aad *et al.* The ATLAS Collaboration
- 023101  **$U(1)_{L\mu-L\tau}$  breaking phase transition, muon  $g-2$ , dark matter, collider, and gravitational wave**  
Jie Wang, Jinghong Ma, Jing Gao, Xiao-Fang Han, Lei Wang
- 023102 **Temperature and volume dependence of pion-pion scattering lengths**  
Qing-Wu Wang, Hua-Zhong Guo
- 023103 **Radiative decays  $D^*_{(s)} \rightarrow D_{(s)}\gamma$  in covariant confined quark model**  
C. T. Tran, M. A. Ivanov, P. Santorelli, Q. C. Vo
- 023104 **Observability of parameter space for charged Higgs boson in its bosonic decays in two Higgs doublet model Type-1**  
Ijaz Ahmed, Waqas Ahmad, M. S. Amjad, Jamil Muhammad
- 023105 **Strong decay of  $Y(4230) \rightarrow J/\psi f_0(980)$  in light cone sum rules**  
Yiling Xie, Hao Sun

### NUCLEAR PHYSICS

- 024001 **Investigation of  $^{58}\text{Ni}(n,p)^{58}\text{Co}$  reaction cross-section with covariance analysis**  
Akash Hingu, S. Mukherjee, Siddharth Parashari, Arora Sangeeta, A. Gandhi, Mahima Upadhyay, Mahesh Choudhary, Sumit Bamal, Namrata Singh, G. Mishra, Sukanya De, Saurav Sood, Sajin Prasad, G. Saxena, Ajay Kumar, R.G. Thomas, B.K. Agrawal, K. Katovsky, A. Kumar
- 024002 **Photonuclear reactions on stable isotopes of selenium at bremsstrahlung end-point energies of 10–23 MeV**  
F.A. Rasulova, N.V. Aksenov, S.I. Alekseev, R.A. Aliev, S.S. Belyshev, I. Chuprakov, N.Yu. Fursova, A.S. Madumarov, J.H. Khushvaktov, A.A. Kuznetsov, B.S. Yuldashev
- 024101 **From masses and radii of neutron stars to EOS of nuclear matter through neural network**  
Zehan Wu, Dehua Wen
- 024102 **Nuclear mass predictions based on a deep neural network and finite-range droplet model (2012)**  
To Chung Yiu, Haozhao Liang, Jenny Lee
- 024103 **Dynamics of  $^7\text{Li}$  breakup and its influence on elastic scattering: a study of  $^7\text{Li} + ^{144}\text{Sm}$  system**  
A. Morzabayev, N. Amangeldi, Awad A. Ibraheem, D. Soldatkhan, G. Yergaliuly, B. Mauryey, Anuar. A. Orazaliyeva, Sh. Hamada

(Continued on inside back cover)

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024104 **Interaction of photons with silver and indium nuclei at energies up to 20 MeV**

J. H. Khushvaktov, M. A. Demichev, D. L. Demin, S. A. Evseev, M. I. Gostkin, V. V. Kobets, F. A. Rasulova, S. V. Rozov, E. T. Ruziev, A. A. Solnyshkin, T. N. Tran, E. A. Yakushev, B. S. Yuldashev

024105 **Analysis of data for  $\gamma p \rightarrow f_1(1285)p$  photoproduction**

Ai-Chao Wang, Neng-Chang Wei, Fei Huang

024106 **Description of elastic scattering for  $^7\text{Li}$ -induced reactions on  $1p$ -shell nuclei**

Yong-Li Xu, Xin-Wu Su, Zhi-Hao Sun, Yin-Lu Han, Xiao-Jun Sun, Dong-Hong Zhang, Chong-Hai Cai

**PARTICLE AND NUCLEAR ASTROPHYSICS AND COSMOLOGY**

025101 **Radiation properties of the accretion disk around a black hole in Einstein-Maxwell-scalar theory**

Mirzabek Alloqulov, Sanjar Shaymatov, Bobomurat Ahmedov, Abdul Jawad

025102 **Cosmic implications of the  $^{12}\text{C}(n,\gamma)^{13}\text{C}$  reaction: a nuclear astrophysical perspective**

Soumya Saha

025103 **Impact of a nearby subhalo on the constraint of dark matter annihilation from cosmic ray antiprotons**

Yi Zhao, Xiao-Jun Bi, Su-Jie Lin, Peng-Fei Yin

025104 **Shadow and weak gravitational lensing for Ellis-Bronnikov wormhole**

Mirzabek Alloqulov, Farruh Atamurotov, Ahmadjon Abdujabbarov, Bobomurat Ahmedov, Vokhid Khamidov

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**Cover story: Quark/gluon taggers light the way to new physics**

Quarks and gluons are elementary particles, according to Quantum-chromo Dynamics (QCD), to bound together to form the protons, neutrons and other hadrons. Due to the nature of the strong force in QCD, quarks and gluons are not free particles, rather manifesting themselves in high energy collisions by a bunch of energetic hadrons, dubbed as “jets”. Thus, discriminating a quark from a gluon possesses a significant challenge because of the limited information and poor understanding of the hadronic jets. Yet, it is of fundamental importance to distinguish a quark from a gluon, not only because of the need to understand the QCD to a deeper level, but also the fact that quarks and gluons may lead to different characteristics coming from electroweak interactions and new physics beyond the Standard Model (SM) of the elementary particle physics. This has been known as one of the most important, but challenging tasks at hadron colliders, such as the Large Hadron Collider (LHC).

In a recent article [1] published by ATLAS collaboration at the LHC experiment, a very detailed study on the quark/gluon tagging technique has been carried out and concluded with very promising separation powers. Two quark/gluon tagger methods, charged-particle jet-constituent multiplicity tagger and BDT tagger combining several jet substructure observables, are carefully studied and thoroughly compared for a broad transverse momentum ranging from 500 GeV and 2 TeV and for multiple tagger working points. With a fixed quark-jet efficiency at 50%, both two quark/gluon taggers are demonstrated to reject more than 90% of the gluon jets. Even more importantly, it also makes solid calibration of taggers so that they could be actually used in LHC-ATLAS data analysis. The current publication is an important step forward toward a better understanding of quarks and gluons in QCD and the jets originated from the electroweak gauge bosons, as well as seeking for signals from new physics beyond the SM.

- Tao Han

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References

[1] ATLAS Collaboration, Chin. Phys. C **48**, 023001 (2024), arXiv:2308.00716[hep-ex]

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